

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BUENOS 05045 010615Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 MCT-01 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 AID-05 TRSE-00 /079 W
-----124473 020650Z /11
R 301459Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BUENOS AIRES
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6329

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUENOS AIRES 5045

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS SHUM, AR
SUBJECT ANTI-TERRORIST OPERATIONS REPORTED IN LA PLATA

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED REPORTS FROM FOUR DIFFERENT HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCES (THREE OF WHOM ARE FROM LA PLATA) REGARDING SECURITY OPERATIONS IN LA PLATA BELIEVED TO BE DIRECTED AGAINST PERSONS WITH EITHER THE TRAINING OR THE ACCESS TO EQUIPMENT WHICH COULD HAVE BEEN USED IN THE JUNE 1 AND JUNE 14 BROADCASTS OF MONTONERO PROPAGANDA ON THE TELEVISION AUDIO FREQUENCY DURING WORLD CUP FOOTBALL MATCHES.

2. A HUMAN RIGHTS SOURCE WHO HAS BEEN RELIABLE IN THE PAST GAVE THE EMBASSY THE NAMES OF SEVEN PERSONS REPORTED ABDUCTED DURING THE LA PLATA OPERATION. THIS SOURCE STATES THAT THERE HAS BEEN A LARGE NUMBER OF RAIDS AND HE HAS HEARD THAT AS MANY AS 25 PERSONS MAY HAVE BEEN PICKED UP. EMBASSY AS YET HAS NO CONFIRMATION OF THESE OPERATIONS FROM SECURITY OR DAO SOURCES.

3. THREE OF THE DISAPPEARANCES HAVE BEEN REPORTED IN THE LA PLATA DAILY, EL DIA.

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PAGE 02 BUENOS 05045 010615Z

4. THE ABDUCTION OF OSCAR ESTEBAN ANTONIO ELICABE URRIOL, AN EMPLOYEE OF A COMMUNICATIONS SUPPLY FIRM, ATTRACTED ATTENTION BECAUSE HE WAS TAKEN FROM HIS HOSPITAL BED IN EARLY JUNE. ELICABE, ACCORDING TO SOURCE AND PRESS ACCOUNTS, UNDERWENT BLADDER SURGERY ON MAY 31 AND WAS REMOVED FROM THE HOSPITAL DE AGUDOS GENERAL SAN MARTIN BY A GROUP OF ARMED

MEN IDENTIFYING THEMSELVES AS MEMBERS OF THE JOINT FORCES. PRIOR TO HIS ABDUCTION, ACCORDING TO THE NEWSPAPER ACCOUNT, HIS HOME WAS SEARCHED AND BOOKS AND A TELEVISION SET REMOVED.

5. ACCORDING TO HUMAN RIGHTS AND SECURITY SOURCES, PROVINCIAL POLICE LOCATED THE LOW POWER TRANSMITTER IN A DOWNTOWN LA PLATA HOTEL ROOM WHICH WAS USED FOR ONE OF THE ILLEGAL BROADCASTS. THE TRANSMISSION WAS VERY LOW POWERED, EXTENDING SOME FIVE BLOCKS IN RADIUS FROM THE TRANSMISSION POINT AND WAS TRIGGERED BY A TIMING MECHANISM. INTERRUPTION OF AUDIO TV SIGNAL HAS BEEN A TACTIC USED ON PREVIOUS OCCASIONS BY THE MONTONEROS. CASTRO

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